

Michigan Sense of Place Council

For more information, contact Nathalie Winans, Executive Coordinator, nw@publicpolicy.com

American Institute of Architects -
Michigan

Collaborative Development Councils

Community Economic Development
Association of Michigan

Creative Many Michigan

Great Lakes Capital Fund

Habitat for Humanity of Michigan

Inner City Christian Federation

Issue Media Group

Land Policy Institute at Michigan State
University

LOCUS - Michigan

Michigan Association of Land Banks

Michigan Association of Planning

Michigan Association of REALTORS

Michigan Credit Union League

Michigan Environmental Council

Michigan Fitness Foundation

Michigan Future Inc.

Michigan Historic Preservation Network

Michigan Humanities Council

Michigan Municipal League

Michigan Suburbs Alliance

Michigan Townships Association

President's Council, State Universities
of Michigan

Prima Civitas

Small Business Association of Michigan

Urban Land Institute

October 1, 2014

Members of the House Commerce Committee:

The Michigan Sense of Place Council was created to improve the state's quality of life and economic competitiveness by creating vibrant regions, downtowns, and neighborhoods where people want to live, work, and open businesses. The Sense of Place Council is a broad consortium of private and public sector leaders ranging from state agencies to municipal organizations and nonprofits. Each of the organizations represented works hard to accomplish the goal of the Sense of Place Council. One way local municipalities have been working on this concept for years is through tax increment financing (TIF).

TIF districts are a vital tool in helping local municipalities create vibrant, successful, destination type places where people want to live and work. If there are not places like this in Michigan, the ability to attract and retain talent becomes exceedingly difficult.

We understand there are some efforts underway to reform TIF districts, and the timing in which this could be accomplished is concerning to many of the Council's members (listed in the column to the left). This is a very complex issue and likely will result in a complex solution, one that should not be rushed to be accomplished before an arbitrary deadline. We firmly believe this reform should be thoroughly vetted so an end product that is effective, efficient and transparent can be created. A rushed product completed in a short, fast-passed time frame such as lame duck could result in an unworkable economic development tool and that would have a detrimental impact in communities across the state.

We sincerely hope the appropriate research and review time will be taken on this issue. The Sense of Place Council and its members look forward to being a potential resource for you as you move forward on this particular endeavor to continue the holistic discussion. We invite you to join us for our council meeting on November 21, 2014 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the Michigan Municipal League, to further discuss this important issue.

Sincerely,



Dan Gilmartin
Executive Director and CEO, Michigan Municipal League
Co-Chair, Sense of Place Council, Representing Non-State Agency Members